

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

- 1.(Currently Amended) A suspension comprising:  
a metal material defining at least a portion of the suspension;  
an adhesive bonded to a portion of the metal material; and  
a composite material having a higher stiffness to weight ratio than the metal material and being bonded to the same adhesive layer that is bonded to the metal material , the adhesive layer being thinner than the composite material.
- 2.(Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the metal material defines a load beam of the suspension and the adhesive and the composite material are positioned on the load beam.
- 3.(Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the metal material defines a base area of the suspension and the adhesive and the composite material are positioned on the base area.
- 4.(Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the metal material defines a spring area having a first bonding area, the composite material defines a load beam having a second bonding area and the adhesive is bonded between the first bonding area and the second bonding area.
5. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the metal material defines a spring area having a first bonding area, the composite material defines a base area having a second bonding area and the adhesive is bonded between the first bonding area and the second bonding area.

6.(Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a high performance plastic.

7.(Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 6 wherein the composite material comprises a liquid crystal polymer.

8.(Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a reinforced plastic.

9.(Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a metal matrix composite.

10.(Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 9 wherein the metal matrix composite comprises aluminum with alumina fibers.

11. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a ceramic material.

12.(Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The suspension of claim 1 wherein the composite material comprises a glass material.

13.(Currently Amended) A suspension ~~for a data storage device, the suspension~~ comprising:

a suspension body formed from a layer of metal; and

a composite stiffener formed from a composite material and bonded directly to a portion of the suspension body by a single adhesive layer that is thinner than the layer of metal.

14.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite stiffener is bonded to a base area of the suspension body.

15.(Original) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite stiffener is bonded to a load beam of the suspension body.

16.(Original) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a high performance plastic.

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17.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a reinforced plastic.

18.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a metal matrix composite.

19.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a ceramic material.

20.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 13 wherein the composite material comprises a glass material.

21.(Currently Amended) A suspension ~~for a storage device, the suspension~~ comprising:

a suspension body formed from a layer of metal; and

stiffener means formed of a composite material for increasing the stiffness of selected areas of the suspension and bonded directly to the suspension body by a single adhesive layer that is thinner than the layer of metal.

22.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 21 wherein the stiffener means comprises a composite material bonded to a base area of the suspension body.

23.(Original) The suspension of claim 21 wherein the stiffener means comprises a composite material bonded to a load beam of the suspension body.

24.(Original) The suspension of claim 21 wherein the stiffener means comprises a composite material having a higher stiffness to mass ratio than the layer of metal.

25.(Withdrawn) The suspension of claim 21 wherein the stiffener means comprises a metal matrix.

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